

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6858**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 243

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 29, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Silencers When Hunting.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Grooms

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ GENERAL  
☒ DEDICATED  
☐ FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill repeals the law that prohibits the possession or use of a silencer while in the act of hunting. The bill provides that a person who takes or possesses a deer or wild turkey: (1) unlawfully; (2) by illegal methods; or (3) with illegal devices; while using or possessing a silencer commits a Class C misdemeanor.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** This bill would allow appropriately licensed hunters in season to possess or hunt with a silencer while providing that a person taking a deer or turkey unlawfully while using or possessing a silencer commits a Class C misdemeanor. This penalty provision would be subordinate to the existing penalty of a Class B misdemeanor for unlawfully taking or possessing a deer or wild turkey.

*Penalty Provision:* If fewer court cases occur due to the elimination of the Class C misdemeanor for legal hunters, and fewer fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would decrease. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500. However, any reduction in revenue would likely be small.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Penalty Provision:* A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* If fewer court actions occur and a fewer guilty verdicts

are entered, local governments would receive a reduction in revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.